

Friends of Grasslands

supporting native grassy ecosystems

PO Box 440, Jamison Centre ACT 2614

phone: 0407 265 131

email: jamie.pittock@fog.org.au

web: <http://www.fog.org.au>

Dumping of Garden Waste at Stirling Park

We in Friends of Grasslands are writing to neighbours of Stirling Park (Yarralumla) to seek your help to stop rubbish dumpers in Stirling Park. In particular, illegal waste has recently been dumped off Fitzgerald Street behind the Danish and Norwegian embassies, by Empire Circuit and below Forster Crescent.

While some consider that it is un-Australian to report rubbish dumping, we urge you to do so, because lawn clippings, autumn leaves and other garden waste contains seeds and other material from which plants that do not belong in Stirling Park can grow. Many garden plants take over the bush by outcompeting native plants for sunlight, nutrients and water. Examples include oak trees growing from acorns in dumped autumn leaves. Nature strips in Yarralumla have two particularly invasive exotic grasses, African Lovegrass and Chilean Needle Grass whose seeds are spread through mowing. Some of these weeds create more fuel for fires, such as African Lovegrass. Recently dumped waste has included nasty weeds like Ivy and Contoneaster. Dumped waste also smothers and kills indigenous plants and exacerbates weed invasion. Friends of Grasslands and the National Capital Authority current spend around \$50,000 per year controlling weeds in Stirling Park. We would like to devote these resources to other amenities in the Park.

You can report dumping garden waste or other rubbish by immediately contacting Access Canberra on 13 22 81 so that City Services rangers can take enforcement action. Car number plate information would be particularly helpful.

It is an offence under the *Litter Act 2004* to dump rubbish in a public place. Penalties include fines of \$1,000 for individuals and or \$5,000 for businesses for basic littering and much heavier fines and even imprisonment for more serious offences (see http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/territory-services/city_rangers/littering). To contact the National Capital Authority, who manage Stirling Park: Phone: 02 6271 2888; E-Mail: info@nca.gov.au; Web: <https://www.nca.gov.au/contact-us>. For urgent matters please call the NCA On Call officer on 6273 4458.

Friends of Grasslands considers Stirling Park a Canberra treasure and overleaf we describe the Park, its importance for conservation, what Friends of Grassland and the National Capital Authority are doing to restore it and how, if you wish, you might join us to do a better job.

Jamie Pittock
National Lands Volunteer Coordinator,
Friends of Grasslands

Stirling Park, Yarralumla

Why is Stirling Park important?

Stirling Park covers 52 hectares on the southern side of Lake Burley Griffin which contains a large remnant of Yellow Box Red Gum Grassy Woodland (YBRGGW). YBRGGW is a threatened ecological community part of a more extensive grassy woodland which extends from Southern Queensland through to Victoria which throughout its range less than five percent of its original area. Canberra has retained over thirty percent of its original area and Stirling Park is an important component of what had been conserved.

Stirling Park is also important as it contains the largest known population of the threatened daisy species Button Wrinklewort. It is an area rich in biodiversity and walk during spring time one can see a wide variety of wildflowers, birds, reptiles, fungi and much more.

Friends of Grasslands work at Stirling Park

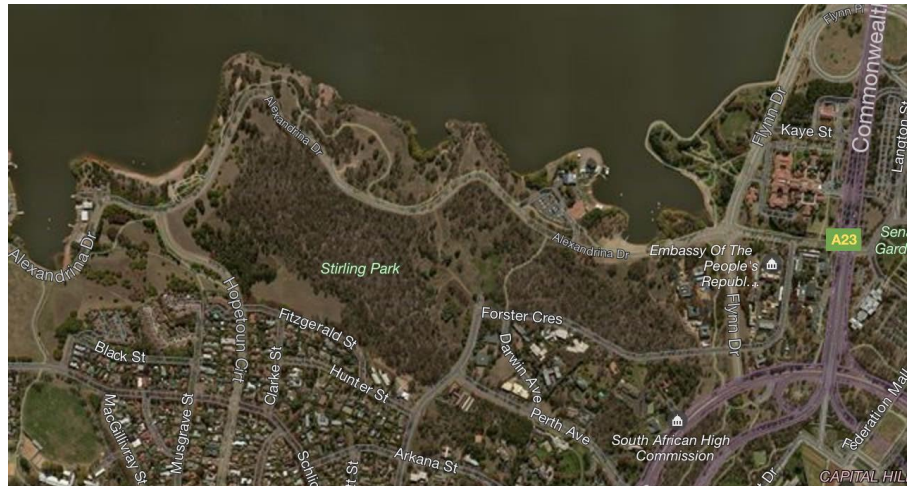
Friends of Grasslands is a community group which organises regular volunteer work to conserve Stirling Park supported by the National Capital Authority which also carries out restoration work. In 2017, Friends of Grasslands held 9 working bees, involving 133 volunteers, contributing 560 volunteer hours and removed about 610 m³ of woody weeds in addition to planting local indigenous species. Planned working bees will occur on May 29th, August 26th, September 30th, October 28th and November 25th.

FOG will conduct a Stirling Park wildflower walk on 1-5pm November 11th.

For more information about FOG activities, contact Jamie Pittock, FOG national lands volunteer coordinator, Mobile: 0407 265 131; E-Mail: Jamie.pittock@fog.org.au

Enjoying Stirling Park

Many local Yarralumla residents take advantage of the Park for recreational activity. People can enjoy the park by walking through the park, bird watching, looking at wonderful wildflowers and flowering shrubs, and citizen and school science.



Endangered species, Button Wrinklewort. Weeding is allowing the species to flourish. You can see the daisy in flower between November and April.